

**Township of Bloomfield
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2021 – 7:12PM

VIA ZOOM

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Director Scurman requested all present to rise and salute the flag

2. ROLL CALL

AB - Mr. Cantalupo

AB - Mrs. Francisco

P - Ms. Estrela

P - Mr. Felix

P - Mr. Gamble

AB - Mrs. Hann

P - Mr. Jenkins

P - Mr. Marek

P - Mr. Tall

P - Councilman Ted Gamble

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 18, 2021

Committee Member Gamble made a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Committee Member Felix. All present approved unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATION

A. Hearing of the Public – NONE

B. Written - NONE

5. REVIEW OF TREASURY BILL LISTS

No one had any questions, comments, or concerns.

6. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Parks Report by Director – See Packet

B. Sub-Committee

a. Facilities

i. Board Member Marek stated he spoke with Mrs. Viscel and she was very happy to hear from him. They selected the spot at Pulaski for the location of the bench, and went with the green frame and brown recycled slats because it will match with other pieces of equipment at Pulaski.

b. Awards/Community Engagement

i. Board Member Felix stated they have not met as of yet, but wants to find out how they can send information to the organizations. Councilman Gamble stated one recommendation,

in terms of recognition, the key club has done great work with the Little Library's around town.

- c. Arts/Culture
 - i. Board Member Estrella stated she has been working with Director Scurman, Gabriela, and other members of the committee creating three or four events on top of the events the Parks and Recreation have. She also stated she wants to start within the Town Hall for a place to have exhibits and tried to create more events during major holidays like Black History Month and Women's History Month. They are still brainstorming on how to make all this happen. Director Scurman stated he is happy to report on April 1 they will have the outdoor open-air gallery Broad Steps that will go down Broad Street into Glenwood Avenue. Gabriela and Ollyn walked and identified the 50 poles they are going to use, and the signs are in production now.
- d. Policy/Procedures
 - i. Director Scurman they have their Financial Assistance Program up and running and he has to make a final presentation to the Mayor and Council for the Tree Donation Program.
- e. Veteran Affairs
 - i. Director Scurman asked Board Member Felix if it is ok, they talk about it when it gets closer to the Memorial Day Parade, and Board Member Felix said sure.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Wrestling – 24 Registrants

- 1. Director Scurman stated he is happy to report wrestling is going on 3 days a week, and maxed out at 24 wrestlers, everyone involved has been very helpful in getting things on the way, and will continue until mid-April. He then stated they are working on the idea of possibly having two scrimmages and are currently working on their COVID policy, procedures, and approval from the parents allowing them to do it. In addition, and just as important, they have to confirm their policies and procedures with the town that would either be hosting or traveling to, and make sure the wrestlers are lined up by weight and ability with the kids that are only going to travel. Lastly, there are two pods working at the same time on two separate mats, on opposite sides of the gym, the coaches stay in the pods, and there are roughly 12 kids on each side with two coaches per pod with no "cross pollination" and is going well.

B. March Programming

- 1. Bird House Challenge – Full
 - i. Director Scurman stated the birdhouses would be either picked up or dropped off this upcoming week, and are waiting on the last bit of supplies.

2. Family Paint Night – Full – Created 2nd class
 - i. Director Scurman stated they had a great turnout and opened up a second class to another 12 totaling 24 participants.
3. Free Zumba Classes – Average 15 participants
- C. Spring Programming – Registration started 3/5
 1. Programs to start on or about Monday, April 12
 2. See Calendar – See Packet
- D. Special Needs After CARE program – See Packet for Pictures
 1. Director Scurman stated he added pictures of their chef it up program they added, and the afterschool program has been virtual since December 2020. They have dance on Monday's, yoga on Tuesday's, and cooking classes on Thursday's and Friday's, which has been very well received, and participation has been full of very good attendance.
- E. Softball
 1. Director Scurman stated registration is a bit lighter than they would like, currently the rookie league is full of 25 1st and 2nd graders which is great, however, 3rd/4th/5th grade have a total of 90 which is low, and 6th/7th/8th grade total of 41 which is low. They are sending out emails and putting stuff up on Facebook. They are working with the league to try and have the suburban league start early in the season because other Towns are ready to start, and then pushing back peppermint to try and bolster those numbers and have the suburban girls play in both leagues. Their goal is to get four teams in each division.
 2. Director Scurman stated they had four teams for men's slow pitch, but then one dropped out and the remaining teams did not seem like they wanted to play so there will be no men's slow pitch league this year.
- F. Track & Field
 1. Director Scurman stated the numbers are slowly on the rise with 31 participants currently registered with a max of 50 and thinks they will be good with this program.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Financial Assistance Program
 1. English/Spanish applications on website
 2. Current Funding
 - i. Director Scurman stated he is happy to report the Mayor was able to secure a \$1,500 donation from the Youth Aid Bureau and another \$2,500 from their Platinum sponsor AR North Developers of 192 the Grove. He then stated they have a total of \$8,300 in their Financial Assistance Program.
 3. Town Pub Fundraiser – 4/28 – 30% of sales go back to the Financial Assistance Program.
 4. Financial Literacy Class
 - i. Director Scurman stated Committee Member Tom Gamble came up with this idea, and wanted to bring it to the Committee

to discuss a teacher, from the Middle School, teaching a Financial Literacy Class. He was wondering what everyone's thoughts were on potentially offering a financial literacy program for either kids and/or adults in conjunction with the financial assistance program, or just in addition to if someone wanted to take that class on a quarterly or bi-annually basis. Everyone seem to agree it was a great idea to do and like it being free in the beginning.

B. Municipal Donation Program

1. Director Scurman stated it has been solidified and presented to the Mayor and Council and he met with their Arborist and Tree Department at the suggestion of a couple Council people when he presented the cost of the park bench donation, they wanted a more economical opportunity and came up with a Memorial Tree Donation. Director Scurman was able to work out a program similar to the park bench donation, same parameters and things like that, and thought a conservative number that is still viable is \$450 for the installation, purchase, and upkeep of the tree for 5 years.

C. Little Library

1. Director Scurman stated there is no new news on Milbank and Halcyon Park.

D. Senior Citizen Vaccine Transportation

1. Director Scurman stated he is happy to report they are part of a pilot program with the County at Essex County College. They are working with Health and Human services who are scheduling seven people a day and Essex County Transportation is picking up these seven people taking them there and back. The program is going well.

E. Cedar Street – Parcel of land

1. Director Scurman stated the facilities committee will be going out to once the weather breaks

F. National Fitness Campaign

1. Director Scurman stated everyone's feedback from the facilities committee was positive. He then stated he will work on putting a Community Development Block Grant together, and work with an engineer to see what a realistic number would be to potentially demolish Memorial field house and install one that is ADA compliant, and more user friendly and utilize space better.

G. End of Year Report

1. Director Scurman stated he has not had the opportunity to work on it because it has been hectic for him, but it is on his screen and when he has opportunities, he does work on it.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Summer of Fun Sponsorship

1. Director Scurman stated they currently collected over \$17,000 worth of donations and have another \$2,500 pending. He then stated, traditionally they raise around \$50,000 so they are short of their goal, but in this current pandemic he thinks they are doing pretty well. Last year they did not dip into their fundraising account last year so coming into this year the account had \$47,000 in it and will have close to \$70,000 in that account.

B. Summer of Fun Events

1. Director Scurman stated he thinks they are moving in a direction with places opening up to 50%, parents able to be spectators at sporting events both in and outside, and vaccines coming around but has not heard any updates as far as numbers for outdoor events. He then stated he wanted to get the Boards feelings on these events.
2. Director Scurman stated he believes the Joint Memorial Committee wants to give up the reins of that event because it is becoming more difficult for them to manage, and some of their active members no longer live around or in Town. He then stated as the advisory committee they recognized that at some point in time they were going to take over the reins and thinks it could be beneficial under normal circumstances. They will augment the parade this year, and hopes to have a full parade in 2022.
3. Director Scurman stated as far as outdoor concerts and drive-ins, he thinks it's something they can do, but they do not have the ability at Brookside park or other parks where it is gated and be able to have X amount of people come in. If the limit is 500, like it was last year, they could explore the idea of bringing them to Foley Field where there are 2 gates and can limit whatever the amount of people is allowed in the event. He then stated maybe doing drive-in movies and movies in the park earlier in the summer, and concerts later on or a fall concert series. He also mentioned the Youth Band will be playing at Pulaski Park on June 15 and August 1, and the Civic Band will be playing one Monday in May, one in June and two in July. They are also working with the Bloomfield High School Orchestra; they are going to piggyback on June 13 after the Youth Band concert.

C. Summer Camp

D. Sports Clinics

E. Little League Opening Day – 4/17

F. Softball Opening Day – 4/18

G. Beautification Committee – 5/22 Civic Center and Library

1. Director Scurman stated they are going to do an event at the Civic Center and Library on May 22, and always looking for volunteers to help with the work.

10. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Marek made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Felix. All present approved unanimously.